

though it has little to recommend it when compared with the choice apples of the present day. It is an early fall apple and has the peculiarity of beginning to rot at the heart as soon as it is ripe. Still if it is able to resist frost it has at least one feature that is worth investigating.

### Crop Prospects in Central Western Ontario.

At the time of writing, crop prospects in Central Western Ontario are very bright. On a motor trip last week through the eastern part of Middlesex, Oxford, East Perth, Waterloo, Wellington, and the northern portion of Brant counties not a bad field of either spring or fall grain was noticed. Never have we seen crops so uniformly promising. Fall wheat through the section travelled is almost without a blank spot and was just coming into head. Spring grains are covering the ground well and if showers are frequent from now on yields should be far above the average. Oats are particularly promising; barley seems to have been held back slightly by the cold weather and severe frosts but is doing well since the rains of the past week. Reports have come to hand that the hay crop is likely to be light in Ontario this year, but, while several fields especially old meadows were noticed to be rather backward, clover through this section does not seem to have been very badly injured by the frost. In some places fields showed the effects of the cold weather while in others the clover was a good length and just beginning to blossom and should yield a very good crop of hay. While speaking of hay we might mention that in Waterloo County we examined a field which had been seeded to a mixture of red clover, sweet clover, and timothy. The field had a big crop on it but the sweet clover, being rather thin, was getting almost too much stalk, and at the time we noticed it was ready to cut, the red clover and timothy particularly the latter being much later in maturing. The owner of the farm was not going to cut the hay until early in July. It will be interesting to follow this crop up and see how the hay turns out. There is going to be a big yield but the danger will be that the sweet clover, which will be more than a third of the stand, will get too coarse and woody before the red clover and timothy is ready to cut.

It is interesting to note when traveling through the country the difference in localities. Through Oxford county dairying is on a large number of farms, the chief stand-by, and on these farms the silo and good stabling is the rule. Houses and grounds also show prosperity. In the northern part of Waterloo county grain-growing, beef and hog-raising are the main features, and never did we see cleaner fields of grain than in this part. Barn buildings are not quite so elaborate but there are unmistakable signs of prosperity on every hand. In Wellington county, north of Guelph, there is a large beef-raising and beef-feeding section. This district is remarkable for the sameness in construction of the barns and outbuildings. All the barns are large with stone foundations, straight roofs and are very wide compared to their length. The soil is of a

slightly more gravelly nature than that of Oxford and North Waterloo. South Waterloo is much more rolling in nature, and here winter crops, especially fall wheat, were looking their best.

Around Guelph a large acreage of roots is put in, especially turnips. Perhaps there is no section in Western Ontario from which so many roots for table use are shipped as the vicinity of Guelph. Turnips were being sown on farm after farm the end of last week, all being put in drills on land specially prepared which means that it had been manured and plowed twice this spring to say nothing of the extra cultivation given with spring-tooth cultivator and drag harrows or in some cases disc harrows.

Very little alfalfa was noticed on the trip and it seems to be the experience of farmers that this crop while excellent feed and satisfactory in every particular, provided it does not kill out, is rather a dangerous crop to depend upon for hay. It is not as uniformly successful as is red clover and farmers feel that they cannot afford to take the chance with alfalfa unless their soil is particularly well adapted to its growth. It seems to winter kill more easily than most of the clovers. However, where a piece had come through the winter well it was looking very promising and will cut a good yield.

From London through to Berlin north to Elmira across to Elora down to Guelph, Galt and Paris and back through Woodstock, Ingersoll and to London again, through some of the best of the farming districts in Ontario is a fine trip and one which would convince anyone that farming was being very well done in the central part of Western Ontario and that crops this year will be better than the average unless something unforeseen happens between now and harvest time.

### More Moonshine.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Speculations about the moon's influence are a pleasant diversion from war news, and so are studies in occult phenomena. Every one who can get hold of a copy should read "Science and Immortality" by Sir Oliver Lodge. As to the moon, it must be noted that of all heavenly bodies it is the most easily observed, and the only one which presents regular and interesting phases. So that from the earliest times prehistoric man must have watched the moon, and used it for a ready-made calendar. All primitive peoples reckon in moons. The modern farmer who says he will have his seeding done by the end of the month is both thinking and expressing himself in exactly the same way as his most ancient predecessor who set himself to do certain things by the next moon. Moon and month are variants of the same word, the lunar month being about 28 days.

Now the moon keeps pretty fair time, and coming as it did into all the ordinary affairs of life coincidences were piled thickly upon one another, and it was easy and inevitable that ideas of cause and effect should attach themselves to its phases. That they have survived is due to the fact that until recently astronomers were not altogether agreed about the real constitution of the moon. Anything might happen; even fifty

years ago men of science thought the moon might be habitable.

To-day it is held that the moon is a frozen planet, the twin planet of the earth, of which it once formed a part. Being much smaller, of only 1-80 the earth's mass, it cooled quickly, and has long since ceased to radiate heat or hold an atmosphere. What we get from the moon is reflected sunlight, whose chemical properties are almost negligible. That it can affect the weather or animal life seems impossible. One exception occurs to me, but I cannot verify it at the moment. When sailing vessels are in the tropics sailors prefer to sleep on deck, and in such cases must take care not to expose their faces to the light of the full moon. Such exposure may lead to slight facial paralysis and distortion, not serious, although it may last some days. This is probably due to irritation of the optic and facial nerves, and might be induced just as well by artificial light.

Although the moon does not influence the weather it is useful in this way, that its appearance affords a good test of the condition of our own atmosphere. A dull moon means that the air is thick. If clouds scud across it rapidly we know that air currents are moving swiftly in the upper strata. The old moon in the arms of the new—a beautiful sight—means that we see the dark part of the moon's disk illuminated by reflected earth-light, and the air must be clear and pure to see this, which in winter means cold weather, at least locally, because the absence of a cloud-blanket allows the fullest radiation of heat from the earth. In a general way the weather in temperate regions changes at least once a week, and to say we shall have a change at the new moon or the next quarter is merely to say we shall have a change next week—a safe guess.

In one way the moon has a decided pull upon the earth—by its joint action with the sun in causing tides. Sailors, fishermen and coast-dwellers have good reason to consider the moon, and Mr. Darwin has pointed out how tidal influence has impressed itself on the reproductive habits of the higher animals, including man.

Where the sea-shore is easy there must be extensive tidal mud-flats, which team with life—marine plants, mollusks, shrimps and so forth—which live upon organic debris deposited by the tides. For these creatures high tides mean plenty of food. In turn, they serve as food for higher animals, such as birds, who find their greatest food supply at periods of low tide, when the flats are uncovered to the greatest extent. Now, a large supply of food, especially if intermittent, always stimulates reproduction; so it has come about that the periods of mating, incubation and gestation are frequently lunar periods. Habits of this sort, being derived from elementary forms of life, persist in the higher animals long after evolution has lifted them to a plane of existence wholly independent of mud-groping.

It would seem, therefore, that we all have a natural born right to be a bit "looney"—the word lunatic being derived from Lat. luna (the moon) because it was supposed that lunacy was caused by the moon.

Lambton Co., Ont. WILLIAM Q. PHILLIPS.

## Toronto, Montreal, Buffalo, and Other Leading Markets.

### Toronto.

Receipts at the Union Stock Yards, West Toronto, from Friday evening to Monday, June 14, numbered 237 carloads, 1,756 cattle, 1,493 hogs, 133 sheep and lambs, 135 calves, and 2,542 horses. The horses are being fed and watered in transit, for the British army. Considering the moderate delivery of cattle, trade was slow at steady prices for the bulk. A few choice cattle were 5c. to 10c. higher. All other classes of live stock remained unchanged, except hogs, which were lower. Choice heavy steers, \$8.20 to \$8.40; choice butchers' steers and heifers, \$8.20 to \$8.35; good, \$7.90 to \$8.15; common, \$7.40 to \$7.60; cows, \$4.50 to \$7.40; bulls, \$6.25 to \$7.10; stockers and feeders, \$5.65 to \$7.65; milkers, \$5.00 to \$9.00; calves, \$5 to \$10. Sheep \$4 to \$6.50; yearlings, \$7 to \$8; spring lambs, 11 to 12½ cents per pound. Hogs, \$9.60 to \$9.70, weighed off cars.

### REVIEW OF LAST WEEK'S MARKETS

The total receipts of live stock at the City and Union Stock Yards for the past week were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle .....	33	650	683
Hogs .....	308	4,790	5,098
Sheep .....	666	11,672	12,338
Calves .....	512	1,323	1,835
Horses .....	141	977	1,118
	338	4,168	4,506

The total receipts at the two markets for the corresponding week of 1911 were:

	City.	Union.	Total.
Cattle .....	11	348	359
Hogs .....	151	3,417	3,568
Sheep .....	115	11,784	11,899
Calves .....	127	1,917	2,044
Horses .....	14	868	882
	44	44	88

The combined receipts of live stock at the two markets for the past week show an increase of 324 car loads, 1,527 cattle, 3,409 hogs, 691 sheep and lambs, 236 calves, and 1,462 horses.

Receipts of cattle and hogs were large, while sheep, lambs and calves were only moderate, and more would have found ready sale during the past week. Fat cattle were a glut on the market during the four market days. At the close of the market on Monday there were more than 1,400 cattle still unsold, and on Tuesday there were 800 of them that had not changed hands, in fact there was not a day, but there were over 200 cattle left. The quality of those on sale was not only good, but almost every class was well represented. There never were as many choice, light handy butchers' cattle in one day in years as there were on Monday. The export steer class was well represented, many loads of choice cattle being marketed. Bulls and cows also were plentiful and generally of good quality. Buyers on Monday, when they saw the situation, tried their best to reduce values, but sellers who had paid high prices would not consent, hence the large number left over. One of the com-

mission firms happened to get an order for over 1,000 of the heavy, choice steers and cows for export to France, which helped materially to relieve the situation. Prices on Monday and Tuesday were about steady with those given in our last report, but at the latter part of the week values eased off from 15 to 25 cents per cwt. In all other classes of live stock there was little change in values.

Exporters.—Choice heavy steers sold from \$8.25 to \$8.50, the bulk going at the former figure; good steers sold at \$8 to \$8.25; choice heavy cows at \$7 to \$7.50, the bulk of these being bought at \$7.25.

Butchers' Cattle.—Choice steers and heifers sold at \$8.15 to \$8.25, and a few lots at \$8.30 to \$8.40, the latter price being the highest paid for this class; good steers and heifers, \$7.90 to \$8.15; medium, \$7.75 to \$7.90; common, \$7.40 to \$7.60; choice cows, \$7.25 to \$7.40; good cows, \$6.85 to \$7.15; medium cows, \$6.25 to \$6.50; common cows, \$5.25 to \$5.75; good bulls, \$7.25 to \$7.50; medium bulls, \$6.65 to \$6.90.

Stockers and Feeders.—Good to choice, 800 to 900-lb. steers sold at \$7.10 to \$7.65; medium, 700 to 800-lb. steers, \$6.75 to \$7.25; stockers, 500 to 650 lbs., sold at \$5.65 to \$6.25.

Milkers and Springers.—Moderate receipts of milkers and springers found a steady market at values which on the average would be about \$5 per head lower. Prices ranged from \$50 to \$90, with a few reaching \$95 each.

Veal Calves.—Prices were firm all week; choice, \$9 to \$10; good, \$7.50 to \$8.75; medium, at \$7 to \$7.50; common calves, at \$5 to \$6.

Sheep and Lambs.—Receipts were larger, but not equal to the demand. Sheep, \$4 to \$7; yearling lambs sold at \$8 to \$9; spring lambs sold at 11c. to 12½c. per lb., and not enough to supply the demand.

Hogs.—Receipts were large, over 3,000, northwestern hogs having been received. Prices ranged from \$9.75 to \$9.85 for the bulk, with a few carlots at \$9.90, weighed off cars.

### TORONTO HORSE MARKET.

For the past two weeks or more, Robert Graham, of Clarendon, and F. S. Macdonald, Principal of the Veterinary staff, have been purchasing horses for the Canadian Remount Commission at the old Civic Cattle Yards. Mr. Graham is well known all over the Dominion, as one unexcelled as a judge of horses. Many horses have already been bought, and they are buying from 25 to 50 horses daily. They are being shipped from all over Ontario to this market. Prices range from \$175 to \$200 for cavalry, and \$190 to \$200 for artillery purposes. The market is open every day of the week except Saturday. Many choice horses are coming forward, as all or nearly all of the leading horsemen are shipping to this market.

### BREADSTUFFS.

Wheat.—Ontario, No. 2, \$1.20 to \$1.22 outside; Manitoba, at bay ports, No. 1

northern, \$1.16 to \$1.26  
Oats—  
to 56c.;  
side; C  
38c. to  
track,  
5½c. to  
Rye—  
Buckw  
Barley—  
73c., ou  
Ameri  
track, 1  
low, 76  
Peas—  
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Rolled  
to \$3.5  
Flour—  
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Hay—  
No. 1,  
Straw  
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Brant  
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Eggs—  
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19½c.  
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